Indira Gandhi National old age pension scheme

†745. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of those old persons, disabled persons and widows in Uttarakhand who have been included under the schemes for pensions eligibility;

(b) the number of those old persons out of the same who have been included under Social Help Programme of Indira Gandhi old age pension; and

(c) the financial aid provided to the State under this scheme and the amount being spent by the State Government as subscription under this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) At present, central assistance of Rs. 200 per month per beneficiary is provided under Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) only to persons who are 65 years or higher and belonging to a household below the poverty line according to the criteria prescribed by the Government of India. The number of beneficiaries under IGNOAPS is estimated to increase from 65752 during 2006-07 to nearly 2 lakhs in Uttrakhand. No central assistance is provided for pension to widows and physically handicapped who are below 65 years of age.

(c) During 2007-08, an amount of Rs. 18.42 crore has been allocated to Uttrakhand under National Social Assistance Programme, which includes Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS). As per the information available, the State Government of Uttarakhand is contributing Rs. 200/- per month per beneficiary, in addition to the central assistance of Rs. 200/- per month per beneficiary as old age pension.

Landless Households in the Country

746. SHRI PENUMALLIMADHU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the landless household in the country has increased from 22% in 1992 to 32% in 2003; and

(b) the steps contemplated by the Government to arrest this trend?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) As per Report No. 491 of National Sample Survey (NSS) 59th round (January-December, 2003), the percentage of landless households (rurai) in the country in 1992 and 2003 was 11.30 and 10.00 respectively. Thus, it may be seen that the number of landless households has decreased by 1.3% during the period.

Decline in real wages of regular women workers in rural areas

747. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the real wages of regular women workers in rural areas has declined to 20 to 30 per cent in recent times;